

City of San Diego
Park and Recreation Board

January 21, 2010

MINUTES

“WE ENRICH LIVES THROUGH QUALITY PARKS AND PROGRAMS”

Meeting Held at:

San Diego Concourse
Silver Room
202 C Street
San Diego, CA 92101

Mailing Address is:

City of San Diego
202 C Street, MS 37C
San Diego, California 92101

Members Present

Wilbur Smith, Chair
Ginny Barnes
Bruce Brown
Rick Bussell
Vicki Granowitz
Norman Greene
Michael Stepner
William Diehl

Members Absent

Roz King
Olivia Puentes-Reynolds

City Staff Present

Stacey LoMedico
Terre Lien
Frankie Murphy
Jo-Ann Novak
Scott Reese
Shannon Thomas
Chris Zirkle

CALL TO ORDER – The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 15, 2009 MINUTES

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Ms. Barnes /Mr. Bussell

A motion was made by Ms. Barnes and seconded by Mr. Bussell to approve the October, 2009 meeting minutes, five approve with one abstention.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA – None

Consent At this time the Board may consider adoption of one or more items on the adoption agenda as “Consent” items.

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE – None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Area Committee Community Parks I – No report

Area Committee Community Parks II – No report

Balboa Park Committee

- Ms. Granowitz reported the Committee heard a special event request from the Healing Arts Festival. Last year, the event had 15,000 people attending including a number of music bands. The event basically shut down the park due to the congestion. The Committee asked the event organizer to come back to the Committee and the request was for the event to take place over two days instead of one day, as was the past event. Changing the event to a two day created a new special event. The Committee turned down the request since it did not meet the Committee's internal guidelines for special events.
- Race for Autism will continue to hold their special event in Balboa Park.

Design Review Committee

- Mr. Smith reported some members are concerned about the use of artificial turf and the absence of park amenities at the Language Academy Joint Use Field project. The item passed with a number of conditions, which will come before the Park and Recreation Board in the near future.

Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve Citizens' Advisory Committee – No report
(Mr. Smith stated the need to appoint a new Chair for this Committee)

Mission Bay Park Committee

- The Committee was recently reformed with a new Chair.
- The Committee was concerned about the loss of the Police Department's Harbor Unit.
- The Workshop on Mission Bay Park Improvement Fund was postponed until the next meeting.
- The Committee reaffirmed the summer moratorium in Mission Bay Park.
- Army Corp of Engineers is in the process of repairing the Jetty on the channel. Maintenance dredging of the channel involves the removal of approximately 600,000 cubic yards of material and should be completed by mid-April.
- The Committee discussed the replacement of the North Crown Point Gazebo.

Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee

- The Committee learned a drone is being used to fly over the park to identify non-native plants along the San Diego River. The drone identified an old adobe building. Drone pictures are connected to a link at Natural History Museum for the public to view.
- Mr. Greene reported there have been more mountain lions sightings within the park.
- San Diego County Water Authority gave an update on their project and the second tunnel excavation has been completed.
- City Council approved the hiring of a consultant and the work has begun on the equestrian area comfort station.
- The Committee had a discussion regarding the land from the McMillin Company. The Committee is concerned about accepting the property due to possible encroachments existing on the property.
- Mr. Greene raised the question to the City Attorney's Office regarding the liability on use of the unused quarry that is used by mountain bikers. (Mr. Smith stated the Department staff will respond to the Committee.)

Tecolote Canyon Citizens' Advisory Committee – No report

Torrey Pines City Park Advisory Committee

- The Committee has met several times and has gone through the process of gathering public information for the General Development Plan. Ms. Barnes invited the Park and Recreation Board Members to attend the approval meeting of the General Development Plan to take place on February 18, 2010 in the Forum Room at University Towne Center at 7:00 p.m. There is no meeting tonight.

COMMUNICATIONS (Limited to items not on the agenda. Each one will be limited to three minutes and is not debatable.) - None

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- Mr. Smith welcomed everyone back. He stated that 2010 looks like it will be challenging for the Department due to a series of budget cuts. Mr. Smith recommended the Committee focus their attention on the quality of parks by improving the existing parks making them more useful and more attractive to the public. This will be challenging due to budget cuts, limited water supply, and the temptation to use artificial turf.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Ms. LoMedico announced the recent celebration of Ocean Air Community Park and Recreation Center, and encourages all to see this Silver LEED design facility. Ocean Air Community Park and Recreation Center is located in the community of Carmel Valley and the service area is Carmel Valley South, Torrey Hills and Del Mar Mesa Community planning areas. (Ginny Barnes corrected)
- There was a Mayor's press conference regarding a recent \$1.5 million Endowment to Balboa Park Gardens.
- Ms. LoMedico reported that the Department had one of the most successful Toys for Tots Program this year. There were also many special events throughout the City such as: Hilltop Winter Wonderland, Encanto and Montgomery Waller Snow Days, and December Nights in Balboa Park with 70,000 people attending each day of this Balboa Park event.
- Ms. LoMedico announced the upcoming grand opening of Naval Training Center Park Phase II which will take place in mid-February.
- Ms. LoMedico provided the Park and Recreation Board Members with:
 - November 2009 Mayor Memorandum on Re-appointments to the Torrey Pines City Park Advisory Board.
 - Update on the newsletter distributed to the City Council on the 5-year grant with San Diego State University.
 - A San Diego Union Tribune Editorial regarding the reclaiming the Plaza de Panama as a pedestrian core and not a parking lot.
- The following are a list of questions and comments regarding celebrating the centennial of Balboa Park:
 - How will the City coordinate the special events for the next two years?
 - Discussions continue with the Mayor's Office staff.
 - The City is considering having an organization take on this role.
 - What projects the City may complete with public or private partnership and celebrate as a legacy to the Balboa Park.

- The City is considering having an annual allocation project which will focus on the historical aspects of Balboa Park.
- At the Balboa Park Committee on February 4, 2010 the Park and Recreation Department will present to the Committee their recommendation for the Plaza de Panama project.
- City Council adopted Fiscal Year 2010 Mid-Year Budget Reductions as well as passing the first Resolution for adopting the Fiscal Year 2011 budget which begins in July. By April 15, 2010 the City Council will receive the Mayor's Fiscal Year 2011 Budget. Park and Recreation Department's current Fiscal Year 2010 reductions included 32 employees \$1.5 million over 18 months.
- The fire pits are scheduled to be removed prior to July unless the community can contribute the full \$120,000 to fund the program. Currently there is \$2,000 in the fire pit fund.
- Planning Commission denied the appeal to the Children's Pool annual rope barrier.
- The December 7, 2009 storm caused more damaged then what the current storm is causing. Most of the damage has been leaks in our facilities and fallen trees.
- Department staff has been working very hard on the new payroll system (HCM) which has taken a lot of work by staff.
- San Diego Open now the Farmers Insurance Open and formerly the Buick Invitational Open will start on Monday, January 25, 2010.
- Golf Low-Income Fee Waiver Report will go to Natural Resources and Culture (NR&C) Committee in February.
- Rock-N-Roll Marathon will be going before the Balboa Park and the Mission Bay Committees in the next month for approval of course changes.
- Ms. LoMedico provided an update on the eviction of the Girl's Club located at Memorial Community Park. The lessee does not have a current lease and are refusing to leave the building. Currently, the City is going through the legal process of removing the lessee from the facility. Once the City completes this process, and has access to the facility they will perform an assessment on the facility and begin a Request For Proposal for another non-profit provider.
- The following includes a list of possible Park and Recreation Board upcoming agenda items:
 - Storm Water Department staff will do a presentation on Sustainable Canyon Pilot Project in April.
 - The first Regional Park Fund Oversight Committee will convene in February 2010. Park and Recreation Board via the City Charter is the designated Oversight

Committee for the Regional Park Improvement Funds. Board Members will discuss their role and go through the City Charter to determine what it means as well as make sure they are comfortable in what their new role will be.

- San Diego River Park Master Plan has been postponed (no date at this time.)
- The Department is moving forward on synthetic turf policy to City Council via Community Parks I and II Committees, Balboa Park Committee and Mission Bay Park Committee. This will be a Park and Recreation Board agenda item in the spring.
- Discussion of Budget in the spring.
- In March staff to provide an update on a grant program the Department is participating with the Police Department and Gang Commission. This provides additional programs to teens in inner cities to keep them off the streets.

Mr. Smith requested a verbal update on Villa Montezuma at the next Park and Recreation Board meeting.

ACTION ITEM

101. Municipal Code 26.30 Park and Recreation Board

Stacey LoMedico, Park and Recreation Department Director provided a brief background of the Municipal Code 26.30 which was presented to the Park and Recreation Board in July 2009.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Mr. Bussell/Mr. Greene

A motion was made by Mr. Bussell and seconded by Mr. Greene to approve the Director's recommendation and do not make changes to Municipal Code 26.30, as adopted by City Council on June 23, 2009. Vote was unanimous (8-0)

INFORMATION ITEM

201. Update on Brush Management

Mr. Zirkle, Deputy Director Open Space Park and Recreation Department provided a comprehensive update on the City's Brush Management focusing on Park and Recreation Program. Fire-Rescue Department, Assistant Fire Marshal Frankie Murphy and Development Services, Associate Planner, Terre Lien were available to answer questions.

Public Comment:

Tershia d Elgin, Anne Fege, and John Lomac representing the Citizens for Responsible Wildfire Risk Reduction all spoke neutral to Item 201:

- Ms. d Elgin concerned regarding weed infestation that are highly flammable.

- Ms. Fege would like the City of San Diego to work on a ten year plan to reduce wild fires risk by instituting incremental improvements every year.
- Mr. Lomac would like the City Attorney's Office staff to look at a funding source based on a fee parcel tax under the health and safety code that is within the discretion of the City Council to take action on.

WORKSHOP

STANDING UPDATES

1. Business Process Re-Engineering (BPR) – Stacey LoMedico, Park and Recreation Department Director stated BPR was adopted via the City Council first resolution for Fiscal Year 2011 budget. The Department made a decision to move forward on park maintenance re-structure as part as management's proposed Fiscal Year 2011 budget. The Department is moving forward by meeting with Labor Union Local 127 regarding impacts to employees. No changes to park maintenance re-structure will occur until the Unions sign-off on it. If the Union does not approve the impacts to workers job classification it will go as impasse, and then go before the City Council.

Ms. Barnes would like to know what the outcome of all the suggestions brought up at the many BPR meetings. (Ms. LoMedico will go through the list and mark which ones were accepted or denied and provide Ms. Barnes with this information.)

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Regular Meeting: **Thursday, February 18, 2010**

**City Administration Building
Council Chambers, 12th Floor
202 C Street, San Diego, CA 92101**

Submitted by,

Stacey LoMedico
Park and Recreation Director